REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on July 27, 2005. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 to 17 are in the application and currently pending

Claims 1, 9, 11-13, and 15-17 are amended to better claim the invention.

Cited References in IDS

Please enter and consider all references on the IDS mailed on July 18, 2001, including the references not initialed by the Examiner. The references should be a part of the parent case.

Claim Objections

At paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 12 and 7 were objected to as being informal.

Claims 12 and 17 have been amended to overcome the objection.

35 U.S.C. §112

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claims 13 and 15 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102

At paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Crayford, US Patent No. 6,269,098, issued on July 31, 2001, hereinafter Crayford.

The present invention, as set forth in representative claim 1 comprises in part:

> 1. A method of operating a switch for frames in a computer network, comprising:
> receiving a frame (the received frame) at a port of said switch, said received frame containing one or more indicia of frame type designation;
> ***deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said switch***;
> accessing a forwarding data base with said derived VLAN value to determine a destination address; and,
> forwarding, in response to said derived VLAN value, said received frame to an output port for transmission to the destination.

By way of background, Crayford describes a network switch for switching frames across multiple ports. Crayford reads a VLAN tag from a frame received by the switch, and routes the frame according to the VLAN tag. (Col. 8, lines 23-48).

Applicant respectfully urges that Crayford does not show Applicant's claimed novel ***deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said switch***. In further detail, the derived VLAN is internal to the switch. In sharp contrast, Crayford is totally silent concerning using a VLAN internal to the switch. In Crayford, the frames are received at the switch with a VLAN tag.

.Applicant respectfully urges that the Crayford patent is legally precluded from anticipating the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §102 because of the absence from the Crayford patent of Applicant's ***deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said switch***.

35 U.S.C. §103

At paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action claims 3-4, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Crayford, in view of Shani, US Patent No. 6,023,563, hereinafter Shani.

Applicant respectfully notes that claims 3-4, 6, and 8 are dependent claims that depend from independent claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 3-4, 6, and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

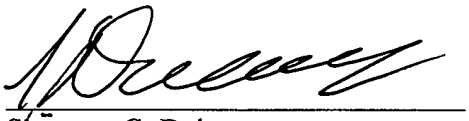
All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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